

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE **A12**

NEW YORK TIMES
24 November 1985

FILE ONLY

U.S. Says Soviet Complies on Some Arms Issues

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 — The Soviet Union has quietly taken steps to reduce some American concerns over purported arms-control violations, according to Administration officials.

The Soviet moves involve the cutting up of bombers and, according to intelligence reports, the possible removal of SS-16 missiles from a test center at Plesetsk in northern Russia.

The moves are of political importance because the United States has taken the position that it will not undercut the 1979 strategic arms treaty as long as the Soviet Union does not.

The 1979 treaty issue was not pursued at the Geneva summit meeting, officials said today. Nor was the question of Soviet violations dealt with in detail.

On Friday, a State Department official said these issues had not been raised in Geneva because they had been discussed by Secretary of State George P. Shultz on an earlier visit to Moscow. Mr. Shultz was said to have affirmed the policy not to undercut the treaty, although reserving the right to make appropriate responses to actions not permitted in the treaty.

Report to Congress Due Dec. 1

The issue will receive attention soon when the Administration submits a report to Congress on purported Soviet

violations. The report is due Dec. 1.

Administration officials caution that the positive Soviet moves have not removed concerns over other purported violations, such as the charge that the Soviet Union has violated the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty by building a large phased-array radar at Abalakovo near Krasnoyarsk in central Siberia.

The United States says the ABM Treaty does not permit such missile-tracking radars in the interior of either country. The Soviet Union says the radar is intended to track space vehicles not incoming missiles.

The reported developments at Plesetsk are of interest because the 1979 treaty bans the testing and deployment of the mobile SS-16. It has been kept at Plesetsk, and an issue has been whether this constituted deployment.

In February, the United States said the Russians had committed a "probable violation" by deploying. But now, an American official said, "that problem may be going away."

The evidence is not conclusive and consists of observations of the moving of support equipment for mobile missiles, such as transporters for warheads, onto rail cars.

Consensus on Plesetsk Moves

Officials said there was a consensus among intelligence officials that the activity at Plesetsk was consistent with the view that equipment for SS-16 mis-

siles was being sent into storage.

But another possible interpretation, an official said, is that the equipment being moved might be for a different missile, the mobile SS-25.

Officials say the Russians may be in the process of moving in SS-25's as SS-16's are being taken away.

"They do not make the activities observable at a time when national technical means are capable of monitoring them," an official said, referring to satellite surveillance. Officials said no SS-16's had been seen since the signing of the 1979 treaty.

There is less debate over other steps described by the Russians. The Soviet Union has said that it will not add to the number of strategic systems it had at the time of the signing of the 1979 treaty. That number was 2,504.

Systems Deployed and Retired

As new systems have been deployed, older systems have been retired. By a recent count the Soviet Union has dismantled 50 SS-11's to compensate for the deployment of 45 SS-25's.

The Soviet Union has also said that it has dismantled more than 30 Bison bombers to compensate for the deployment of new Bear-H bombers, which can carry cruise missiles.

The bombers have been placed in plain view at an airfield, officials said. This summer, the tail sections of 15 of the old Bison bombers were being cut off. The Soviet Union says the others have been converted to fuel tankers.

An Administration official said the United States had not accepted this Soviet assertion because the conversion of the planes could not be verified.

"There is no discernible difference in their external configuration," he said.

Officials say the issue is complicated by the fact that procedures on bomber dismantlements were never worked out after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the United States decision not to ratify the 1979 treaty.

In addition to the moves relating to this treaty, there is general agreement that the Soviet Union has taken steps to stay within the limits of the first strategic arms treaty, of 1972, by continuing to cut up the missile-carrying portion of old Yankee submarines.

This leaves three purported violations of concern to the United States. They are the Siberian radar, which the United States says violates the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty, and the encoding of missile test telemetry and the development of the SS-25, which are said to be in violation of the 1979 treaty.